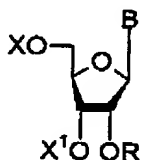


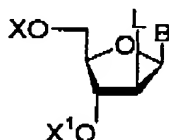
Listing of the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application:

1. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1):



which comprises reacting a compound of formula (2):



with a compound of formula  $\text{Al}(\text{OR})_3$ , under substantially anhydrous conditions wherein:

X, and  $\text{X}^1$  are each independently H or a protecting group;

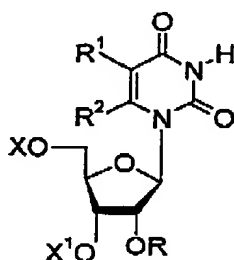
B is a nucleobase; and

R is an alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group, each of which may be substituted by one or more of halogen or amino substituents; and

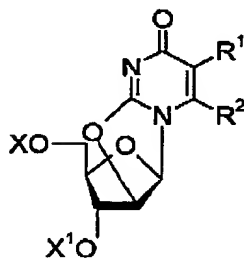
L is a leaving group.

2. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the leaving group is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{OSO}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $-\text{OSO}_2\text{CF}_3$ , Cl, Br, I, O-Mesyl, O-Brosyl, O-Tosyl and the nucleobase, B, chemically bonded to the 2'-position, via an oxygen or sulphur atom or a moiety of formula  $-\text{NR}^x$ , wherein  $\text{R}^x$  is H or a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl or an aryl group.

3. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3):



which comprises reacting a compound of formula (4)



with a compound of formula  $Al(OR)_3$ , under substantially anhydrous conditions wherein:

X, and  $X^1$  are each independently H or a protecting group;

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or halogen; and

R is an alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more of halogen or amino substituents.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are both H, or  $R^1$  is  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl, and  $R^2$  is H.

5. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 or claim 3, wherein R is a  $C_{1-4}$  alkenyl group, a  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy $C_{1-4}$  alkyl group or a  $C_{1-4}$  alkynyl group.

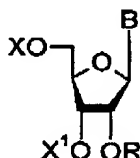
6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein R is a methoxyethyl group.

7. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1) wherein B represents cytosine, or a substituted derivative thereof, which comprises:

- a) preparing said compound of Formula (1) wherein B represents uracil, or a substituted derivative thereof; and
- b) converting the uracil moiety to the equivalent cytosine moiety.

8. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a product oligonucleotide which comprises the coupling to a nucleoside or an oligonucleotide of a compound prepared by a process according to any one of claims 1, 3, 7 or 9.

9. (Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (1)



wherein X and X<sup>1</sup> are each, independently, H or a protecting group;

R is an alkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group, each of which may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more of halogen or amino substituents; and

B represents cytosine, or a substituted derivative thereof;

which comprises

- a) preparing a compound of formula (3), by a process according to claim 3; and
- b) converting the uracil moiety to the equivalent cytosine moiety.

10. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 or claim 3, wherein X and X<sup>1</sup> each represent H.

11. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1 or claim 3, wherein at least one of X and X<sup>1</sup> represent said protecting group.

12. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the protecting group or groups are selected from the group consisting of acid labile protecting groups, acid-labile acetal protecting groups; and base labile-protecting groups.

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13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the leaving group L is selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{OSO}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $-\text{OSO}_2\text{CF}_3$ , Cl, Br, I, O-Mesyl, O-Brosyl, and O-Tosyl.

14. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the leaving group L is a pyrimidine.